

Business Notices.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1895.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

In recording the earthquake which yesterday afternoon, we inadvertently gave the time wrongly. It was 5.45, not 6.15.

The movement may be described as a horizontal vibration between east and west, roughly; there was no vertical motion, and hardly any perceptible travelling direction. The first distinct oscillation was felt a minute or so before a quarter to six, and lasted about 30 seconds. Further tremors were felt for some minutes afterwards; and another distinct shock occurred about 11.30 p.m.

The whole earthquake was so slight as to be hardly noticed by anyone walking about; but most persons who were sitting or lying down felt it plainly. It was sufficient to interfere a little with writing. In high buildings it was of course most noticeable. Two gentlemen in the upper floors of the Hongkong Hotel were rendered dizzy, and thought the place was coming down. In the Engineers' Institute, bottles and glasses in the bar were rattled about, and in the top floor of the Central Police Station the effect was similar. In the streets, coolies sitting on the pavement sprang up and rushed into the roadway, looking up at the buildings and shouting that the houses were falling. In many of the poorly-built tenements of the native quarter, the inmates were greatly alarmed, and some rushed out into the streets, fearing that the buildings were falling. One Chinaman, scared out of his wits, told a policeman that the house was on fire! No actual damage was done anywhere, as far as can be ascertained.

Telegrams were received last night by the China Mail (Hak Tsai Yat Po) to the effect that the earthquake was also felt in Weihow, Hainan, and Szechow, the shocks in the last mentioned places being most severe and lasting about two minutes.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTICE.

The following was issued by the Hongkong Observatory:—

Earthquake shocks at 5.45 p.m. and several times during the night. On the 30th at 10.10 p.m. Two lanterns hoisted vertically. On the 31st at 4.15 a.m. Black South Clouds hoisted. At 1.15 a.m. Typhoon moving westward to the South of Hongkong in about 19 degrees latitude. At 11.0 a.m. Forecast:—Barometer rising; fresh E. breeze; squally and showery.

CANNIBALISM IN CHINA.

HORRIBLE BRUTALITY.
(From a Correspondent.)

Although the following news is two months old it may be of interest as showing in what state part of this country of China is under a 'highly developed system of Government, honary, &c.'

In the last week of June two large villages, Pien Ching and Tang Ching, distant 7 miles from Ty Sui in the Canton Province, began to fight. The cause of the quarrel was, as often, disputed water rights.

By a night attack the people of Tang Ching on the sea embankment, and let in the water so as to destroy a large part of the enemies' rice, then almost ready for cutting. Reprials followed, and though the villages are distant only 30 miles from two District cities, Hai-hong and Lok-hong, the fighting continued for over a month, involving many villages, and causing a large number of deaths.

The worst feature, however, is this. By one side three and by the other four prisoners were taken alive. These men were killed and eaten, except in all. It was not in this case, as in some others, an eating of the heart or gall only. Every eatable portion was consumed, most of it being given to the children of the respective villages.

The facts were ascertained by careful enquiry and may be accepted as proved. Though not unprecedented in that district, such an act of cannibalism is unusual, and led to the appointment of a special deputy to enquire into the case.

The local magistrates are in many cases unable to deal with such fights. When they become serious the officials do not bring a sufficient force of soldiers to quell them, presumably because too much of their funds would be expended, and so the people are left to fight it out.

To go a little further back the people themselves allege that the cause of these fights is the utter corruption of the Yamen officials, great and small alike. Such a quarrel as the above would at home be fought out in the local courts. Here the people will not go to law, because of the expense, and because they know from experience that judgment follows the big purse.

As sequel and confirmation of the above, the fighting was stopped because of a rumour that the Hai-hong garrison had sent for a force of 1000 men. They arrived 200 strong; or rather weak, for they were mostly old men, miserably equipped. During the lull caused by the rumour an agreement was come to between the belligerents.

When Roydard Kipling was twelve he went on a voyage with his father. The older Kipling became very seasick, and went below, leaving the younger to himself. Presently there was a great commotion overhead, and one of the ship's officers rushed down and begged at Mr. Kipling's door. 'Mr. Kipling,' he called out, 'Your boy has crawled out on the yard-arm, and if he lets go he'll drown.' 'Yes,' said Mr. Kipling, 'I'm glad to know that nothing serious was the matter, but he won't let go.'

THE KUCHENG MASSACRE.

THE COMMISSION AT WORK.
ELEVEN CONVICTS—ONE HUNDRED ARRESTS.
LEADER AND TWO LIEUTENANTS CAUGHT.
CONTINUED OBSTRUCTION BY FOCHOOW VICE-ROY.

(From our own Correspondent.)
Fochoow, Saturday, August 31, 3.20 p.m.

The Commission of Enquiry into the Kucheng Massacre continues its work, which is progressing slowly. Upwards of one hundred arrests have been made, including the leader of the 'Vegetarians' and his two lieutenants. For each of these three men a reward of nine hundred dollars was paid. Eleven men have been convicted of complicity in the murders.

One of the difficulties is caused by the Chinese officials; the Viceroy (at Fo-chow) refuses to give his deputy (at Kucheng) the necessary discretionary powers, and consequently every new question that arises has to be referred back to Fochoow, the deputy being a mere mouthpiece of the Viceroy's instead of a qualified Commissioner.

'FRAGRANT WATERS' MURMUR.
That there is nothing just now to vary the monotony of our 'Sleepy Hollow' except occasional typhoons and earthquakes.

That both typhoons and earthquakes are mere trifles, judging by what we are having in Hongkong.

That if the end of the earth comes as gently as last night's seismicological phenomenon, many people will be rather disappointed.

That the earthquake does not seem to have attained such dimensions as would merit much attention at the Hongkong Observatory.

That, at any rate, Dr. Dobson has not exhibited any unbecoming haste in issuing monographs about our modest little tremblement de terre.

That perhaps he is too busy trying to find what has become of his equally modest and unobtrusive typhoon.

That he had at 10.10 p.m., 'two lanterns hoisted vertically,' which according to the official interpretation 'indicates bad weather in the Colony.'

That though the weather in the Colony has not been what some people would call good, it has certainly not been bad enough to warrant such extravagant expenditure in lamp-oil and wear and tear of telegraphs.

That if this is the best typhoon we can get for our money, we shall want our money back.

That this failure of the elements is a matter for serious alarm to the Colony, since our water supply for the next dry season ought to be now well on towards completion.

That the Tytan reservoir is only half full, and this abortive typhoon was expected to bring along rain enough to fulfil requirements.

That after all the trouble of increasing our storage capacity at Tytan, we may have our water supply cut off again as usual next spring, simply because our normal weather supply seems to be out of this summer.

That usually our supply of weather comes from Manila via Formosa, and so perhaps the disturbed state of Formosa is responsible for the interruption.

That I do not think much of the Kucheng Commission.

That the strenuous effort to keep the foreign consuls off has not been punished at all.

That now the consuls are in court, it is not edifying to see them calmly acquiescing in an inquiry by torture.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE KUCHENG MASSACRE.
To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL.'

Sir,—One cannot help asking the question, while reading of the torture that the actual perpetrators of the Kucheng massacre are now undergoing, 'what is to be done to the officials who have by their action before, and in action during, after these atrocious tragedies contributed so largely to the present position?'

It has occurred to me that a good plan to obtain guarantees for the future safety of foreigners is to get personal enquiry from the Government should insist upon the Viceroy of Peking, Szechow, and Hainan being handed over to the British nation for safe custody along with their principal minions, not forgetting that infamous second-hand Choo Han.

Build a special jail for them in Hongkong or Shanghai, and incarcerate them there for life with hard labour and the certainty of a flogging every time an outrage on foreigners is committed in China.

In the event of these things being done, the moral effect of such action would be felt throughout the length and breadth of this unhappy country, resulting in great and mutual benefit to Chinese and Foreigners alike.

Just imagine, the rest of China's Viceroy with this object lesson staring them in the face.—Yours, A. UNIT.

THE POST OFFICE.

To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL.'

Sir,—The delay in the delivery of letters in the delivery of letters posted locally has been 'The Post Office for Britons.' May I, as an old resident in the Colony, suggest that in an emergency of that department a consideration may be given to the claims of the German community?

It is well known that the increase of German business and correspondence has, during the last few years, been mirrored by the increase of the German population and by the increase of the German community. The German community is now a large and important one, and it is not too much to expect that the Postmaster General should be able to supply the German community with the same facilities as he does the British community.

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THE KUCHENG COMMISSION.

Supplementary to our Fochoow correspondent's letter published on Monday, 28th inst., we take the following from the Fochoow Echo of the 24th inst.:—Why it takes the Echo a week to come to Hongkong from Fochoow when steamers have been calling there almost daily during the past week Goodness only knows!

On Saturday morning (17th August) the cards of the Chinese officials were sent in, and a meeting took place subsequently to decide as to the mode of procedure in conducting the enquiry. The High Official, who should at once commence to enquire, was asked to enquire into the massacre, and the results from time to time. The question was then asked, whether the Consul was to infer from this that he was not present at the examination, and the High Official was asked to enquire into the massacre, and the results from time to time.

Not that Kube is any worse than other places, perhaps, for the world of sorrow and pain is the Kube Custom-house, and officials are highly to be praised for the courteous and gentlemanly manner in which they perform their duties; the only trouble is in the duties themselves, 'blow' 'em'! The officers, laddery by their very best to make the human inquiry to devise a way of making duties pleasant. The only real trouble is in the duties themselves, 'blow' 'em'!

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MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF MODERN JAPAN.

THE RAZE OF A TYPEWRITER.

The eccentricities of Custom-house officials all over the world are amusing and instructive to the happy few who have no property in the world and so escape. Blessed are the poor in Customs, for they shall cook-anook in the words' manners and customs' of the world, and so escape. Blessed are the poor in Customs, for they shall cook-anook in the words' manners and customs' of the world, and so escape.

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THE FORMOSA SUGAR SUPPLY.

A JAPANESE JOURNAL OF JAPANESE PROSPECTS.

The public are liable, says the Keizai, to exaggerate the output of sugar in Formosa, and to think that the island can raise an inexhaustible supply of this most useful commodity. That is far from being the case, as the Keizai learns from a wholesale merchant in Yokohama. Formosa at present supplies only a small portion of the sugar consumed in Japan. According to the Customs returns, the total amount of sugar imported last year was 228 million cwt., representing in value about 13,300,000 yen.

Now, the whole export of sugar from Formosa, as given in the Customs returns of Formosa, does not exceed 500,000 picul. Even if one-half of the amount is sent to Japan it does not exceed 250,000 picul, or 20 million cwt. There being, however, a certain amount of sugar carried over to the mainland of China and not included in the Customs returns, the total sugar supply of the island may be estimated at 750,000 picul, or 62 million cwt. This is about half of the entire supply to Japan. Thus it will be seen that in the event of the whole yield being sent to Japan, more than one hundred million cwt. have still to be supplied from abroad. Of this, the principal are (1) Luzon, (2) Java, (3) the Philippines, (4) the East Indies, (5) the West Indies, (6) the Cape Verde Islands, (7) the Azores, (8) the Canary Islands, (9) the Madeira Islands, (10) the Azores, (11) the Canary Islands, (12) the Madeira Islands.

On the other hand, the rebound of the sugar supply of Formosa is not so great as it is often supposed to be. Even in the event of the whole yield being sent to Japan, more than one hundred million cwt. have still to be supplied from abroad. Of this, the principal are (1) Luzon, (2) Java, (3) the Philippines, (4) the East Indies, (5) the West Indies, (6) the Cape Verde Islands, (7) the Azores, (8) the Canary Islands, (9) the Madeira Islands, (10) the Azores, (11) the Canary Islands, (12) the Madeira Islands.

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Married couple (occupying one room) per month	...	150.00
Married couple (occupying two rooms) per month	...	170.00

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ATIONS.—AUGUST 31, 1895.

Value	Paid	Closing Quotations,
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	up.	Cost.
125	all	180 % prem., buyers
£ 5	—	nom.
£ 8	£	nom.
£ 1	£ 1	nom.
£ 10	£ 8.10	225+

\$	2.0	\$	50	\$180, sellers
\$	83.33	\$	25	\$75, sales and sellers
\$	1.0	\$	50	Fla 200 buyers
\$	100	\$	20	\$22, buyers
\$	250	\$	25	\$180
\$	100	\$	6	\$103, sales
\$	100	\$	20	\$85, sales and buyers

\$	250	\$	50	\$235
\$	125	all	107 % prem., buyers	
\$	50	all	\$02½	
\$	50	all	\$55. sales and sellers	
\$	20	all	\$33½, sales	
\$	10	all	\$47½	
\$	10	£	10	

£	10	£	1	£8, sellers
£	100	all	\$103, buyers	
£	100	all	\$45, sales and buyers	
£	50	all	\$41, sales and buyers	
£	100	37	\$37, buyers	

50	100	\$	50	\$63, sellers
50	50	\$	30	\$12, buyers
50	10	all	88	
50	50	\$	40	\$18½, sellers
50	100	all	\$85, buyers	

3	5	all	\$3.50, sales
3	48	3/4	\$4.20, sellers
Fcs.	500	Fcs. 500	\$110, sales and buyers
3	3	all	{ \$3.50
E	1	13/10	
Fcs.	500	all	{ \$4.80, sellers
			{ nom.

100	\$	55	nom.
50	all	\$3,	sellers
50	all	\$0	
10	all	\$10 $\frac{1}{2}$,	sales and sellers
5	all	\$1	

10	all	\$110
108	835 $\frac{1}{2}$	buyers
50	all	\$10 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales and sellers
15	\$12.50	\$7, sellers
1E1		norm.
1E 16/-		\$10
10	all	\$2, buyers

25	\$	25	\$20, sales
50	all		\$36
10	all		\$8, sales and buyers
25	all		\$35, buyers
50	all		\$140, buyers
100	100	25	25
100	100	25	25

c.	Interest.	Quotation.
h.	7 1/2 p. ann.	10 1/2 prem., sales
	A. G. STOKES; Share-broker.	
5,	Wyndham Street, Hongkong.	
